

Melanie A. Blunt Biography

Melanie Anderson Blunt was born in the small community of Middleburg, Virginia. After graduating from high school, Melanie attended James Madison University and graduated *summa cum laude* with a Bachelor of Science in Fashion Merchandising. After college, Melanie managed retail stores for the Limited Inc., Britches and Talbots.

Melanie met Matt in 1996 while he was serving in the United States Navy. They were married the following year.

After Matt left active naval duty, the couple moved to a home near Matt's birthplace in Springfield, Missouri. Like Matt, Melanie is convinced that Missouri provides a tremendous environment to live, work and raise a family.

Melanie has devoted herself fulltime to helping her husband strengthen Missouri. She has traveled across our state delivering speeches and visiting with countless Missourians about their hopes and aspirations.

She considers the experience both rewarding and invigorating. "Each day, I learn more about the challenges facing the people of Missouri and I am certain that Matt is leading our state to a successful and rewarding future."

An active community leader and volunteer, Melanie's service has been particularly focused on many of Missouri's most vulnerable children.

As a past member of the Executive Board and Board of Directors of the Junior League of Springfield, Melanie has lead projects aimed at addressing disability awareness. In addition, Melanie represented the league on its State Public Affairs Committee.

Melanie is a member of the Regional Board of Directors for Boys and Girls Town of Missouri. She has been recognized for her assistance with charity events that benefit the Springfield campus.

As Missouri's First Lady, Melanie has participated in the Junior League of Springfield's *Read, Dream, Believe* literacy project, Scholastic Read for 2006, and Habitat for Humanity's Women's Build.

To support her initiative of women's and children's wellness, Melanie has helped promote the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Day, and October's breast cancer awareness month in Missouri. Melanie has participated in the Susan Komen Race for the Cure®. The First Lady has joined the Governor to ensure immunization cards are issued to every Missouri newborn.

She has also supported Missouri's new Amber Alert Portal System, Child Passenger Safety Week, and the Missouri Child Resource and Referral Network.

Currently, Melanie serves as honorary chair of the Junior League of Springfield's Crisis Nursery and the Mid-Missouri Chapter of the American Red Cross, Heart of a Hero event. Melanie is a member of the Internet Keep Safe Coalition and the Jefferson City Parents As Teachers Advisory Council. She is also an Ex-Officio member of the Board of Directors of Missouri Mansion Preservation, Inc.

Volunteerism has been an important part of Melanie's life. The First Lady is helping lead the national recognition movement by encouraging Missourians to give back to their communities through the President's Volunteer Service Awards program.

Melanie and Governor Matt Blunt have one son, William Branch Blunt, who celebrated his first birthday on March 9, 2006.